

party's case or rebuttal briefs. Written arguments should be submitted in accordance with 19 CFR 355.38 and will be considered if received within the time limits specified above. Parties who submit argument in this proceeding are requested to submit with the argument (1) a statement of the issue and (2) a brief summary of the argument. If this investigation proceeds normally, we will make our final determination on October 14, 1997.

This determination is published pursuant to sections 703(f) and 771(i) of the Act.

Dated: July 28, 1997.

Jeffrey P. Bialos,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-20492 Filed 8-1-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 071497C]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife: Draft Recovery Plan for Shortnose Sturgeon

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS is announcing the availability of the draft recovery plan for shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*). NMFS is soliciting review and comment from the public on the draft plan, and will consider these comments in the approval of a final recovery plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before September 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Request a copy of the draft recovery plan from Mary Colligan, Habitat and Protected Resources Division, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Written comments and materials regarding the plan should also be directed to Mary Colligan at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Colligan at 508-281-9116.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The shortnose sturgeon, *Acipenser brevirostrum*, is an endangered fish species that occurs in large coastal rivers of eastern North America. It

inhabits 18 rivers ranging from the Saint John River in New Brunswick, Canada to the St. Johns River, FL. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires NMFS to develop and implement recovery plans for most species that are listed under the ESA as threatened or endangered and that are under the jurisdiction of NMFS. In May 1997, the Shortnose Sturgeon Recovery Team submitted its final draft of the recovery plan to NMFS.

The draft recovery plan includes a synopsis of the biology and distribution of shortnose sturgeon, a description of factors affecting species recovery, an outline of actions needed to recover the species and an implementation schedule for completing specific recovery tasks.

Public Comments Solicited

NMFS intends that the final recovery plan will take advantage of information and recommendations from all interested parties. Therefore, comments and suggestions are solicited from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, and any other person concerned with the draft recovery plan.

Dated: July 30, 1997.

Patricia A. Montanio,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-20484 Filed 8-1-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 072897C]

Marine Mammals

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Issuance of Letters of Confirmation to conduct scientific research under the General Authorization.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*, specifically, 104(c)(3)(C)) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216.45) letters of confirmation (LOC) to conduct level B harassment of marine mammals in the wild under authority of the General Authorization for Scientific Research have been issued. Level B harassment, as defined in section 216.3, means any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which

has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering but which does not have the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild. The following letters of confirmation were issued to individuals or organizations from January 1, 1996, through June 30, 1997:

Dr. Paul H. Forestell, Pacific Whale Foundation, Associate Professor and Director, Psychobiology Program, Social Science Division, Montauk 222, Long Island University, Southampton, Long Island, NY 11968 (LOC No. 21);

Dr. Robert F. Young, Assistant Professor, Marine Science Department, Coastal Carolina University, P.O. Box 1954,

Conway, SC 29526 (LOC No. 22);

Dr. Andrew J. Read, Assistant Professor, Duke University Marine Laboratory, 135 Duke Marine Lab Road, Beaufort, NC 28516 (LOC No. 23);

Howard W. Braham, Ph.D., Director, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 4, Room 2149, Seattle, WA 98115-0070 (LOC Nos. 782-1306, 782-1360, and 782-1352);

Mr. John J. Burns, Living Resources, Inc., P.O. Box 83570, Fairbanks, AK 99708-3570 (LOC No. 25);

Dr. Andrew J. Read, Assistant Professor, Duke University Marine Laboratory, c/o Clearwater Marine Aquarium, 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, FL 34630 (LOC No. 26);

Mr. Kenneth C. Balcomb, III, Center for Whale Research, Inc., 1359 Smuggler's Cove Road, Friday Harbor, WA 98250 (LOC No. 27);

Mr. T. David Schofield, Senior Mammalogist/Marine Animal Rescue Coordinator, National Aquarium in Baltimore, Pier 3, 501 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202-3194 (LOC No. 28);

Mr. Shane Guan, Grice Marine Biological Laboratory, University of Charleston, 205 Fort Johnson, Charleston, SC 29412 (LOC No. 29);

Dr. Harold N. Cones, Professor and Chairman, Department of Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Sciences, Christopher Newport University, 30 Shoe Lane, Newport News, VA 23606-2998 (LOC No. 30);

Dr. Bernd Wursig, Director, Marine Mammal Research Program, Texas A&M University, 4700 Avenue U/Building 303, Galveston, TX 77551 (LOC No. 31);

Ms. Marilyn Mazzoil, 17630 NW 67th Avenue #1211, Miami, FL 33015 (LOC No. 32);